

UNCLASSIFIED

(X256)*

TELCON
Hugh Sidey
Sec. Kissinger
November 7, 1975
12:00 noon

RELEASED IN PART
B6

S: What do you say, Henry?

K: Hi, Hugh.

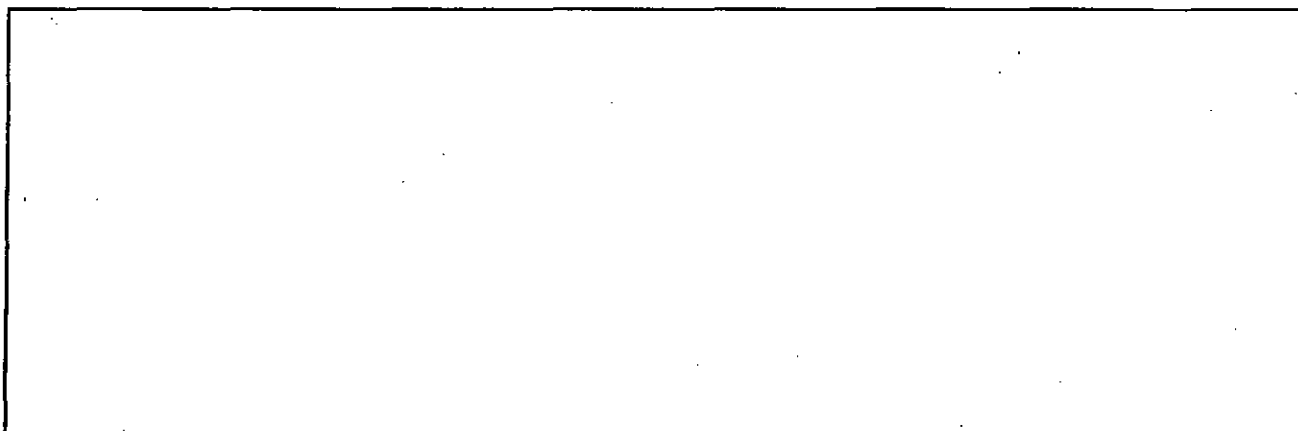
S: You are still there. I have to check.

K: I find that a new way of making news.

S: How.

K: By just being there day after day. That is headlines.

S: I have a beautiful piece here. I wanted to check some of it with you.



B6

S: It reminds me of Lyndon Johnson when he was getting a flowery introduction he said it was just a shame his father could not be here. My father would have enjoyed it and my mother would have believed it. Again, this is just a mood piece here casting you as the man of long duration. It would say and I quote you in talking about the bitterness that accumulates around a man who has been in the office this long it is inevitable, says Kissinger, when you live at that level of power for seven years you gain criticism and few supporters. There are no exceptions -- Acheson, Dulles, Rusk. His relations remain as close as as popular with Ford as have ever been. It says you are still doing the White House briefings although the routine may change. Then I quoted this. Again, this is your talking to friends or other people. The news story around town is that Richardson is being brought back to take my place. If he is I know nothing about it but maybe some Sunday morning I will be called to the White House and fired. Dr. Kissinger laughs. The sense of humor is still in contact. Seriously, he continues in his pursuit of peace

UNCLASSIFIED

2.

and in the midst of some of his worst trouble he carries along the concern of the national interest. Do they think I want another upheaval after Watergate, Vietnam, the Middle East. What seems to hang in the balance now is whether we will go back to the days of cold war and unlimited arms build-up and bitter confrontation with the Soviet Union or whether we can keep the new relationship alive. Then we go on talking about this strange city of Washington which makes the effort to dismantle so much. Kissinger, hwn he is not protecting his flanks is still looking into the future. So many people seem to have the belief that God has been giving the United States the right to experiment with no penalty. The time has run out. If there is no accommodation with the Soviet Union now and no _____ established for peaceful causes, we may slide back to the cold war. It wouldn't be like the 50s. If there is confrontation with the Soviet Union and we mobilize and take a stand it will be possible only if the people know we did all we could to prevent it. We have a great opportunity now .

K: Can you say will be sustainable rather than possible.

S: I see. O.K. We have a great opportunity now. The Soviet leaders have gotten older and tired. We are going the only way left. In a single matter of pursuit like the Soviets, Kissinger sometimes says he does look at times like a ruthless power grabber. Many friends have urged him to get out now. They believe that a man who stayssso long can only harbor more bi-terness. But the Secretary has said in conversations that someone has to stay in an pick up the pieces and fight the same battles. I go on about my views. Despite Congress and despite a cynical country he intends to stay as long as he can. He has found a personal reserve of enthusiasm in the middle lands. It amuses but gratifies him. They want Russian markets for grain and common sense says it is the only --accommodation. Also a peculiar thing now but the Secretary has some support in Congress. He has gained a little yardage with the Pike Committee and a long with the Turkish miliitary embargo.

K: Could you avoid saying amuses but gratifies me. Amuses sounds too patronizing.

S: We can take it out.

K: I don't want it to seem as if I am looking down on these people whom I respect enormously.

S: I know that and I see your point. The survival is routed in the rightness of the goal even if sometimes his methods have been questioned. His chief worry is that politics will turn debate to personalities--his mainly-- and he may have to leave before he wants to. He is still armed with a sense of humor and sensitivity of what will matter around the world. Two



3.

years from now no one will give a damn if I am up down or side ways. These are the essential quotes.

K: Sounds very compassionate.

S: It is not that profound.

k; You have been a good friend and I appreciate it.

S: It is a tough old world.

K: It never ceases to produce surprises.

S: Anymore on the way.

K: Not that I am aware of it.

S: I am not either but I have been casing around town. Gosh, sakes it is kind of unfortunate. I think Ford has proper movites in mind and had he not had the press conference it might have worked well.

K: You think that hurt.

S: I think a great deal. When people conceive you to be weak or vacillating. In the middle of the Vietnam War with Johnson, I said something about leadership under criticism and he said one thing always remember you are not in trouble until they begin to pity you and that is when you...

K: That is a very good point.

S: You begin to -- as long as the criticism is there you are still in command of much.

K: Many thanks.